

June 17, 2014



Office of the Statewide Health Planning and Development
Merry Holliday-Hanson, Ph.D., Manager
Administrative Data Program
Office of the Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Room 250
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Merry Holliday-Hanson, Ph.D.,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the hospital-level data on Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) included in the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's "Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators for California, 2012." We are committed to our patients, and our goal is to be a top decile performer in all areas of quality. We fully understand and support making quality information available. We believe self-reporting and transparency initiatives help consumers make important healthcare decisions and challenge healthcare organizations to live in a world where they are striving to do better.

In reviewing the data, there is clearly room for improvement in AMI mortality at Kaweah Delta. Well before this report was released, we began implementing a plan to ensure that our AMI performance is to the highest standards. That plan includes:

- Looking at all AMI cases to ensure accuracy of diagnosis and that all co-morbidities were coded correctly. Additionally, cases are reviewed for location of infarction, timeliness of interventions, and whether a plan for follow-up care was provided to each patient.
- Instituting a strict monthly multidisciplinary clinical quality review process of our AMI mortality data and charts. Such meetings allow us to frequently monitor results, identify how we can improve, and decide what changes can be implemented to improve outcomes for patients.
- Instituting a number of evidence-based practices and protocol changes in the cardiac department to ensure that delivery of care is in line with standard of practice.
- Joining The Advisory Board Company's Cardiovascular Roundtable Group to improve outcomes.

When we become aware of these, or any, opportunities to improve, we immediately address them. Thanks to the hard work of the dedicated Medical Staff and our employees, there is no question that today patients at Kaweah Delta are benefitting from an improved level of care. We expect the 2013 data to show improvement, reflecting our commitment to cardiovascular health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JPaskert', written over a light blue circular stamp.

James Paskert, M.D., Chief Medical & Quality Officer, Kaweah Delta Medical Center